



NWIWB briefs

Issue #8— March 2008

Work Ethics Being Addressed in Schools

Getting young people to understand the importance of possessing a solid work ethic could prove to be a challenge and it's something that Eric Chester tackles in his book, entitled, *Getting Them to Give a Damn*. The area's Work Ethics Certificate program is one the NWIWB and it's Regional Operator, the Center of Workforce Innovations, is introducing into area schools in order to address the group that Chester calls "kidploys" (ages 16-24). This group has a very different set of values, expectations, and skills that business owners and managers must reckon with.

The Work Ethic Certificate Program targets juniors and seniors and is based on 10 criteria established by employers and educators. The program criteria includes attendance, community service, overall grade point average, organization, punctuality, respectfulness, and teamwork. Four of the criteria will require four or more teacher signatures to serve as evidence that the student displays those qualities on a consistent basis. Upon successful completion, students will receive a certificate signed by the Indiana Governor, which will serve as validation to employers that they obtained the credential and have successfully displayed strong work habits that will foster success in higher education and in the workplace. +

Schools that are currently engaged in the state's Work Ethics Certificate Program are: **East Chicago Central, Hanover Central, Hebron, Knox, LaPorte, Lowell, North Judson, and Wheeler high schools.**

The program also wouldn't exist unless we had employers who have agreed to recognize the certification as prospective employees are being interviewed and/or hired. **Thanks to the following Work Ethic Certification employers in Northwest Indiana!**

Access La Porte County, American Licorice Company, American Renolit Corporation, AMPCOR II, Bonnell Grain Handling, BP Amoco, Braun Company, Bridges, Inc., Brown Mackie College, Center of Workforce Innovations, Centier Bank, City of LaPorte, CLS Benefit Solutions, ConAgra Foods, Creative Expansion, Creative Management Corp., Dage MTI, Datagraphic Printers, DataMine Corp., Dekker Vacuum Technologies, Emerson Power Transmission, Employment Plus, Express Personnel Services, Fiber Bond Corp., Figment Group, Fred Gutwein & Sons, GAF Materials Corp., Galbreath, GGNet, Golden Technologies, Gortrac Division of A&A Manufacturing, Greater LaPorte Chamber, Harris Bank, Kriterion, KV Works, LaPorte Herald Argus, LaPorte Regional Health Systems, Michiana Impreglon Center, Michigan City Chamber, Miller's Senior Living Community, Morse & Company, MPI International-Indiana Fineblanking, New York Blower, Packaging Logic, Parents & Friends, Porter County Education Interlocal, Red Brick Investment Properties, Restaurant Management Corp., St. Margaret Mercy, Saint-Gobain Containers, Scott's Maytag Appliance Center, Sonus Heating Care Professionals, Strack and Van Til Supermarkets, Stranco Products, SuperTech Business Communications, T&T Gaming, Talbert Manufacturing, TP Orthodontics, UA-Plumbers Local Union 210, White Castle Bakery, White Lumber, YMCA of LaPorte.

To find out more about the program or about becoming a Work Ethics Employer, contact Gail White, Workforce Associate at the Center of Workforce Innovations, 219-462-2940 or email gwhite@innovativeworkforce.com.



Board Side with Gary Miller

For the past 10 years, Gary Miller has run Prompt Ambulance Service, Inc., as the owner and CEO. Prompt provides basic and advanced life support ambulance service, as well as patient transportation for those who are ambulatory or confined to a wheelchair. Gary attended Indiana University Northwest, where he received his degree in Business Administration.

Why did you agree to serve on the NWIWB?

I originally agreed to serve because of my desire to see positive changes in working with the state and other employers. It's been a pleasure to see that the efforts make for positive changes.

What other organizations are you actively involved with?

Chairman-State Emergency Medical Services Commission, American Red Cross, and the Indiana Ambulance Association

Did your career go in a different direction than you had initially planned?

Growing up in a family business, my future was pretty much predetermined. My father died when I was 20 and along with my siblings we were all thrust into the business.

What do you feel is a critical issue that must be addressed in order to move our region forward on staying nationally and globally competitive?

Cooperation between government at all levels, including education, and the business environment. Once this occurs the growth of jobs and the economy can be spectacular.



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Why not TAG along?

Are you seeing several Northwest Indiana companies getting free money to train their employees? Why not stop, take a look, and follow suit. This past year Northwest Indiana accounts for over \$1,200,000 in employee training dollars provided through the Department of Workforce Development.

The Training Accelerator Grant (TAG) is an opportunity for Indiana businesses to earn up to \$200,000 in grant funds to train their existing workforce in a variety of different fields.

What are TAG benefits?

Employers choose the trainees, the training provider, and the type of training needed

Employers can choose when and where the training will take place

Employers can be eligible for more than one grant

Grants can pay for tuition, contract services, books, lab fees, and technology fees

Take a look at the three most recent TAG recipients in our region:

\$170,000	Arcelor Mittal
\$77,000	Current Technologies Consortium (Waretec, Inc. and DRD from Chesterton and Carlisle Restaurants in Portage)
\$17,000	Hammond Development Corporation Consortium (The Calumet Group, Inc., Shared Resources Solutions, Inc., and HT Aluminum Specialties, Inc.)

To find out if you qualify for *free training money* through the Training Accelerator Grant program

Contact Sandra Alvarez, local TAG & WorkKeys® Consultant at 219-204-2856 or salvarez@innovativeworkforce.com

Dates to Remember

NWIWB Board Meeting	Thursday, April 17, 2008 2:00—4:00 p.m. Purdue Academic Center
NWIWB Board Meeting	Tuesday, June 17, 2008 2:00 — 4:00 p.m. Purdue Academic Center

DATA

Labor Market Profile

January 2008 Unemployment Rates

United States	5.4 %
Indiana	5.1 %
Jasper Co.	6.0 %
Lake Co.	5.5 %
LaPorte Co.	5.9 %
Newton Co.	6.5 %
Porter Co.	4.3 %
Pulaski Co.	4.8 %
Starke Co.	6.8 %

The Northwest Indiana Workforce Board (NWIWB) is committed to the development of a highly skilled, motivated, and diverse workforce, earning sustainable or higher wages and actively engaged in skill advancement and life long learning.